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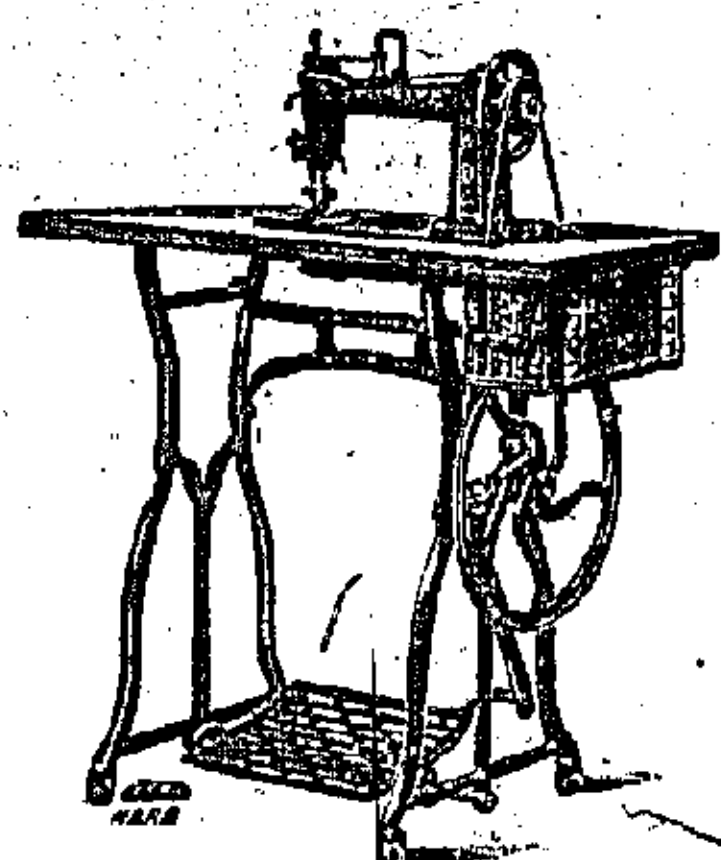
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THE BRITISH NAVY.

Navy League's Reply to Lord
Selborne.

The following reply of the Navy League
Executive to Lord Selborne's recent speech
is forwarded to us by the Secretary:—

The First Lord welcomes criticism pro-
vided it comes from a legitimate source,
that it is reasonable, and that the critics
have taken the trouble to ascertain the
facts, but complains that he is asked in
public prints and other documents to admit
that the whole Board, including Lord
Walter Kerr, the late Sir Lord Sir Fre-
derick Richards, and the Junior Lord are
indifferent to the welfare of the Navy, in-
capable of doing their work, and ignorant
of the requirements of the country. No
such statement has been made by respon-
sible critics. What is alleged is that the
Admiralty, being governed by political con-
siderations, is necessarily the shuttlecock
of political convenience.

Protest is raised against the control of
the Navy and naval decisions of momentous
interest being determined not from the Im-
perial and national standpoint but from
reasons of political convenience. When, as
under present circumstances, the political
head of the Admiralty is entirely in the
hands of his First Sea Lord, who has no
time to think, then the personality of that
First Sea Lord becomes a matter that con-
cerns the well-being of every citizen in the
country. Lord Salisbury has told us that
the business of defence is not the business
of the Government but the business of the
people themselves. Lord Selborne mis-
takes the gravity of the case of his critics
and resists, an attack that has not been
delivered while he evades the vital issue.

The Navy League wish to see the opinion
of the naval expert laid before Parliament.
If this is impossible, owing to constitutional
difficulties, then hush! for the British
Constitution and down with the British
Empire!

It is true that there is a Department of
Naval Intelligence at the Admiralty, but
the duties of this Department are merely
to recommend, not to enforce. There is no
power of decision. There is nothing what-
soever to show that the opinions of the De-
partment of Naval Intelligence are ever
acted on. The thinking department of the
Admiralty is the most important of all. It
should consist, not of three captains (with
their Clerks) whose voice is never listened
to; it should rather be a dominant depart-
ment acting as the brain of the Navy.
Thinking divorced from responsibility
necessarily leaves decisions to the thought-
less or overworked. Molthe's, Blumen-
thal's and Nelson's successes were due to
the fact that thinking and responsibility
for decision were united in one individual.

DISTRIBUTION OF SHIPS.
It is not a fact that any proposals have
been made in any responsible quarter to
relieve the Admiralty of deciding the dis-
tribution of ships. To do so would be
absurd. As a matter of general policy it
may be questioned whether the crews of the
useless and unworthy ships now
scattered in different parts of the world
would not be very much better employed
in squadrons of "cruisers" or in flying
squadrons. That is a matter of opinion.
Nor is it easy to perceive why the North
American, East India, and South Ameri-
can Squadrons are maintained in the pre-
sent state of the Mediterranean Fleet. All
that is desired by responsible critics of the
Admiralty is to point out to the country
the facts of the case. In this criticism
they appeal to the language of the present
Secretary of the Admiralty used in the
debate on the Navy Estimates in 1896:—

"The leader of the Opposition said that
we were to accept the proposals of the Go-
vernment, because they were proposed
by a responsible Government with their
knowledge of the necessities of the case.
Was it not an elementary fact that during
the last ten years everything that had been
conceded had been forced by agitation from
the responsible Government, and had been
something they did not intend to give?"

The increase of the Navy Estimates had
proved that the Estimates made by former
responsible Governments did not cover the
necessities of the case. To tell them that
they must accept these

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that our opponents will not as cowards, but from the fact that the French, and for that matter the English too have often struck a blow without previous declaration of war. History records numerous cases when this has been done. In fact wars have been as often without declarations as with them. Jurists are divided in opinion as to the necessity of a previous declaration to the enemy. This being so it is right to run the risk of presenting such a temptation to possible enemies as is now offered by the state of the Mediterranean Fleet? The answer to this question belongs to the people not to officials. The present Government of France may be succeeded by a Chauvinist administration. The mob in France has far more influence over Government than in this country. Even Ministerial utterances are sometimes inspired by the mob. It is, therefore, necessary in the interests of peace, to take adequate precautions for the prevention of a surprise, not against a loyal and friendly French Ministry but against the madness of political adventurers. The Mediterranean Fleet is the structure upon which our national life rests. All that is asked is that it should be ready to strike the first blow not after a delay but at once. Under present Admiralty dispositions several days will be lost while the Admiral is picking up his reinforcements. A child can see the difference in a naval war begun by a successful, perhaps an annihilating blow delivered by England, and a war only begun after delay which will give an equal chance to our opponents. The Mediterranean fleet when strong is the only effectual Peace Society.

AUXILIARY SHIPS.
The question of auxiliary ships and the extent to which they should accompany the Fleet in peace time is of course a matter for the experts. That, however, is not the point Lord Selborne has to meet. What the Navy League has pointed out is that these auxiliaries do not exist, and that it is not safe to leave their provision until after war has broken out. That a great nation like England should be dependent on foreign charity for the gift of a hospital ship for the Mediterranean is a scandal. The repeating ship that is at the present moment being built should have been built immediately the South African War broke out. The difficulty about the distilling ships should before now have been overcome. The necessity of providing them has been repeatedly pointed out and was only tardily accepted by the Admiralty. The depot ships for destroyers should have

been in the Mediterranean a year ago. One does not require to be a naval expert to know that neither officers nor men can keep every faculty on the strain for more than 48 hours without physical and mental collapse. Lord Selborne says that store ships, telegraph ships, and other kinds of ships are all provided for and will be sent to the different squadrons in time of war. Why is there no practice in the use of these ships? Where are they? Do they exist? How will you know whether they will work in time of war in the place and under the conditions that will prevail after war breaks out? The present Board of Admiralty is leaving all this to chance, and after the experience of the Boer war it is strange that the head of the Admiralty should tell the English people that what is necessary will be done after war breaks out. The people of England wish to see that their heavy insurances against fire are effective. How can this be ascertained unless the operations of war are practised in time of peace.

EGYPT.
Lord Selborne says that Egypt is not undefended. At the time Lord Selborne spoke the weak Mediterranean Squadron was at Gibraltar while the French united fleets, hoisting 62 pennants, with seven Admirals, and 70,000 soldiers in Algeria, lay between Gibraltar and Egypt. In what sense could Egypt be said to be defended by the Navy under those circumstances? It was defended by the loyalty of the French Government. Under the present condition of things the beginning of a naval war involves the virtual abandonment of Egypt. Lord Selborne says that any hostile force rash enough to attack Egypt would find their cause to be 'hopeless.' We were told the same thing by experts about the Boers, but we were told wrongly. There is nothing to prove that Lord Selborne and his Board have more knowledge of the future than had Lord Lansdowne and his military experts. The Admiralty's policy exemplifies the English fault of under-rating one's enemies. We have always done so in the past, but in naval war surely it is better policy to make assurance sure at any cost than to run a risk that would end in fatal and irreparable disaster. Cost, however, is not the main factor in national safety. It is forethought—and we now know on the highest authority—that the thinking department has no power to enforce its decision.

THE MALTA BREAKWATER.
Why is the Malta breakwater not built?

The defence of Malta, if attacked, will be by ships of war. Malta is not to rely upon the Fleet in time of war. Bizerta is 210 miles from Valetta. Irreparable damage might be inflicted in the absence of a breakwater. The money required to build it has been spent on other things.

ARMOUR PIERCING SHELLS—SMOKE POWDER.
It is satisfactory to learn that armour-piercing shells are about to be issued to the Fleet, but nothing is said about the smoke powder. Mr Arnold Forster, however, declares that any indictment against the Admiralty on this head must fail. Why? The point of the indictment which is not met is that our possible enemies do not use black powder because they have provided themselves with smokeless powder, while the British Admiralty, with the wealth of Britain at its back, is unable to procure a commodity obtainable by France, Russia, and Germany. Some answer ought to be given to the British people. It is no answer to say that Admiralty officials are working as hard as they possibly can to remedy the defects of black powder. What we want is smokeless powder for our sailors, not political assurances of departmental zeal.

BOILERS.
The Admiralty decision that five kinds of boiler are to be tested in various ships now building is no doubt a wise decision arrived at on business principles, but is it not obvious to any commercial man that this test of the comparative merits of various kinds of boiler should have been instituted before, not after, the expenditure of millions on the Belleville and that in placing all their eggs in one basket the Admiralty have shown a want of ordinary prudence that justifies the criticism it has received?

THE ROYAL YACHT.
It is satisfactory to learn that the responsibility for the error in the construction of the Royal Yacht is to be followed by censure of the officers concerned. It is only regrettable that the principle of individual responsibility cannot be more widely distributed through all the departments of the public service.

REPAIRS.
It is satisfactory to learn from Mr Arnold Forster's statement that the repairing of ships useless or of little value in time of peace and of no value in time of war will be discontinued. But if this is the case why was £29,000 spent on the Dreadnought, a muzzle-loading gun ship? This is where the money is wasted. Two destroyers could have been bought for the price of the Dreadnought's repairs—a ship which was

obsolete when repaired. We thus see that heavy Estimates are not the same thing as naval efficiency. The repairs of other ships useless in peace or war are now to be stopped. 'Sea galleons' apparently have their uses after all.

CONCLUSION.
Lord Spencer, who was one of the best First Lords of the Nineteenth Century, was pleased to be contemptuous towards the 'sea galleons.' But if they were so contemptible why does the House of Lords take so serious a step as to postpone its customary departure for dinner by nearly an hour, while the House of Commons devotes a couple of days in Henley week to the same subject? The speeches of Lord Selborne and Mr Arnold Forster show that hot haste is being made to atone for neglect and to supply the acute pressing needs of the Mediterranean Fleet. What, however, is of greater import to the nation is the demonstration of the fact that the lessons of the Boer war have not been laid to heart; that the thinking department of the Admiralty is divorced from power; that amendment of Admiralty methods is once more due to a popular demand and is not dictated by thoughtful appreciation of national needs. Under these circumstances there is no other course to pursue than to continue the agitation. The Mediterranean Fleet should either be strengthened or disbanded.

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A YOUNG LADY'S LIFE SAVED.
AT PANAMA, COLOMBIA, BY CHAMBERLAIN'S COLIC, CHOLERA AND DIARRHOEA REMEDY.

D^r. Chas. H. Utter, a prominent physician, of Panama, Colombia, in a recent letter states: 'Last March I had as a patient a young lady sixteen years of age, who had a very bad attack of dysentery. Everything I prescribed for her proved ineffectual and she was growing worse every hour. Her parents were sure she would die. She had become so weak that she could not turn over in bed. What to do at this critical moment was a study for me, but I thought of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy and as a last resort prescribed it. The most wonderful result was effected. Within eight hours she was feeling much better; inside of three days she was upon her feet, and at the end of one week was entirely well.' For sale by All Dealers, Warrner's Ltd., General Agents.

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General Memoranda.

SATURDAY, August 17:— 2.30 p.m.—Auction of Household Furniture, at No. 7, Granville Avenue, Kowloon.

MONDAY, August 19:— Noon.—Meeting of Shareholders of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., at the Offices of the Company, Queen's Buildings, Connaught Road.

TUESDAY, August 20:— Goods per *Pekin* not cleared at 4 p.m. subject to rent.

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THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

The publication of this issue commenced at 5.30 p.m.

The China Mail.

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1901.

In another column we reproduced the statement by the Marquis of Lansdowne, the British Foreign Minister, regarding the Far Eastern Department of the Foreign Office. Viscount Templeton having asked in the House of Lords whether any of the officials (that is to say, the permanent officials who are the real rulers) employed in the Far Eastern Department of the Foreign Office had at any time served in China, Japan, or any of the Far Eastern Colonies, Lord Lansdowne replied that 'none of the officials employed in the Far Eastern Department of the Foreign Office have served either in China or Japan, or His Majesty's Colonies in the Far East.' The Foreign Minister, in the usual official manner to which the public is now accustomed, proceeded to give a long explanation, the purport of which, when it is analysed, is that it is rather an advantage than otherwise to have officials ignorant of local conditions in the Far East. This is a somewhat startling proposition; but if the Foreign Office clerks who sit in London and control British Ministers in Far Eastern Colonies have nothing to guide them on ordinary occasions but the information that filters through official channels, we cease to wonder at the repeated blunders that mark the conduct of British affairs in the Far East. When Lord Lansdowne can say that the Foreign Office had no more expert or better-qualified adviser than Sir Claude Macdonald, the British communities of the Far East need not be surprised at any eccentricity of the Foreign Office during the eventful period that is in progress in the settlement of the China question. In addition to officials, however, Lord Lansdowne explained, it was customary to accept the guidance of the management of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, the Committee of the China Association, and gentlemen of experience in Far Eastern affairs. It will please the public to know that the Foreign Office acknowledges the information supplied by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank as valuable. It is flattering to the higher officials of that important banking institution to know that they are depended upon by the Foreign Office of the greatest Empire the world has ever seen. But is it altogether right that the fate of a country's foreign policy should be decided by 'the man in the street'? So long as the Foreign Office is guided by the excellent advice of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, the interests of which are of steady growth and involved in the general prosperity of the Foreign communities in the Far East, there may be no reasonable grounds for apprehension so far as the British policy in China and Japan is concerned; but there is no guarantee that the Bank's advice will be accepted, still less that the Bank's advice will always be the best. That, however, is a mere side issue. The chief point to consider in connection with Lord Templeton's question is that for many years past, Great Britain's policy in the Far East has not received the general commendation of her nationals in these countries. Opportunities have been missed of improving the relations of Foreigners and Chinese—opportunities for sympathetic political influence, opportunities for trade expansion, opportunities for holding ground already gained. The past ten years has seen a steady decline in British prestige in this part of the world, and this falling off has been coincident with a steady decline of influence on the part of other Powers. Obstacles to trade have been tolerated; and there is a belief in some quarters that this is in no small degree due to interested advice given to the Foreign Office on critical occasions—not, we may add, by the Bank but by others who have enjoyed immunity from competition and who have no desire to introduce fresh competitors into a profitable field. It is not at all certain that the type of civil servant in the higher offices in London is comparable with that which built up the British Empire; but even if these men were geniuses they would be better able to discharge their imperial duties if they were acquainted with the countries and colonies allotted to their special care. To pass from larger imperial affairs to the consideration of the local requirements of a Colony like Hongkong, it seems ridiculous that so little power should be vested in

the Governor and so little confidence reposed in the people he governs—that every consideration of local Colonial life should be subject to the whim or otherwise of a permanent official comfortably ensconced in his office in London. What, for instance, can such an official say on the sanitary reform of Hongkong which will be of the smallest service to the Colony; what about the housing of the people; what about the public offices, the reclamation of the foreshore, the proposed reservation for Europeans, the educational system, or the thousand and one questions on which public opinion may run counter to local official opinion? What would be thought of the merchant or shipowner or manufacturer who selected as his principal assistants, inexperienced young men, ignorant it might be, of the work they are called upon to perform? When an alert and enterprising merchant wishes to open up a new field he invariably endeavours to obtain experienced assistance. Are the interests of the British Empire less valuable than the interests of a single merchant that the country allows ignorant young men to override the opinions of the experienced? For, in spite of all Lord Lansdowne said, there have been times during recent years when the British Government, even with the best lay advice at its disposal, has committed irreparable blunders in the Far East, entailing loss of prestige and loss of power. The subject is one well worthy of study by those who have British interests primarily at heart, and, in this connection, we would direct the attention of our readers to the extract from a Home contemporary giving details of the German method of preparing for colonial expansion.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The Chinese Regiment.

Captain Molyneux-Montgomery, Grenadier Guards, who has been doing excellent work with the Chinese regiment at Wei-hai-wei, has been appointed to Sir Henry Trotter's Staff in Carleton House Terrace as aide-de-camp. Lieut. H. M. Farmer of the Lancashire Fusiliers is seconded for service with the Chinese Regiment.

A Bigamous Suggestion.

Women are sometimes accused of lacking a sense of humour, but a casual slip of the tongue which the Duke of Argyll made the other day in addressing a drawing-room meeting at Loewer Lodge was instantly and warmly appreciated. The Duke had said that after the war it would be an excellent thing if Boer and Briton were to inter-marry. 'We want the Briton to marry the Boer girl,' said the Duke, 'but we want him to have an English wife as well.' The peal of laughter which greeted the ambiguous declaration led the Duke to correct himself, and explain in great haste what he meant.

Khaki for French Soldiers.

Khaki is now to be adopted in the French Army. A recent circular from the Minister of War states that the blue cloth clothing used by troops in the Colonies having been adversely criticised, will be replaced by garments of khaki-coloured material. The men will continue to receive their white cloth clothing, and this will be retained for use on Sundays and full-dress occasions. No changes are to be made in the form of the garments, but distinctive signs are to be placed on the collars and helmets, in order to distinguish the Artillery from the Infantry. For the present, khaki uniforms will only be supplied to troops engaged in the Colonies or on foreign service. The disciplinary battalions, however, are not to be affected by the change.

The British Military Officer.

In his official report on the war in South Africa, Captain Slocum, of the U. S. army, writes:—The majority of the British officers look upon their army service as a mere incident in their lives, shortly to be given up for the delights of country and town life. Few of them look upon it seriously as a career, and consequently fail to make themselves proficient in those innumerable details necessary for a professional soldier to know, and rely too much, far too much, on the non-commissioned officers to assume those duties which rightly and properly they themselves should perform. The soldier sees too little of his officer, and consequently in critical times instinctively turns to his non-commissioned instead of his commissioned officer. The artillery has shown itself during this war, in my opinion, to be the best branch of the combatant service. The field and horse artillery guns were not of the most modern type and were very often outgunned by the enemy's, nevertheless, the gunners, both officers and men, have demonstrated that they are as good as the most critical commander could desire.

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CHAMBERLAIN'S COLIC, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy has a world-wide reputation for its cure. It never fails and is pleasant and safe to take. For sale by All Dealers, WATKINS' Ltd., General Agents.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Notes by the Way.

There has been a good deal of sickness among the German troops in North China.

Viceroy Li and Chang have petitioned Li Hung-chang to shorten the period over which the indemnity is to range.

It is anticipated that Parliament will not be prorogued until the week ending August 24.

There was 1 case of plague and 2 deaths in the Colony during the past twenty-four hours.

Mr R. T. Reid comes out with the best batting average of the Singapore C. C. for last year—Total runs scored, 608; average for innings, 25.74.

The Tientsin Municipality is discussing the purchase of the local waterworks and oil gas company which does the public and private lighting of the Tientsin settlement.

Yuan Shih-kai has started his college in Chi-nan-fu, and engaged foreign professors we are told. All modern languages will be included in the course, but preference will be given to English.

The *P. and T. Times* says there is not the slightest likelihood at present of the Chinese Court returning to Peking. Some sixty officials of the various Boards, however, have returned to Peking from Lisian.

Major H. J. Cowan has left England for Wei-hai-wei to take up the duties of Commanding R. E. at that station in succession to Lieut-Colonel C. Penrose, who has been appointed Commanding R. E. at Gosport.

Mr S. Meyer, partner of the Medical Hall, Singapore, died on board the German mail steamer *Kleist* off Aden on July 29. Mr Meyer had been ill for some time in Singapore, and was taking a trip for the benefit of his health.

Though not in especially weak health, those who have interviewed Li Hung-chang recently state he is undoubtedly breaking up. He dies into paroxysms of rage on the slightest provocation, and these notably leave him prostrated.

Capt. Oswald Ames, the huge Life Guardsman who rode at the head of the Diamond Jubilee procession in London, in 1897, is to be married to Violet, second daughter of the late Lord Francis Cecil, R.N., and Lady Francis Cecil.

Local cricketers will be interested to learn that Lieutenants T. N. S. M. Howard and M. D. Wood, who helped Hongkong in the Interport matches in 1898, have been promoted to the rank of Captain in their old regiment (West Yorks) as from 24th November, 1900.

Inspector-General J. W. Fisher, service papers state, is to be relieved of the medical charge of the Royal Naval Hospital at Plymouth by Inspector-General T. Bolstey on his return home from the China station, where he gained much practical experience during the war.

Theatre Royal.

The season of the Australian Vaudeville and Specialty Company concluded last evening. There was a large audience and the bouquet field was much in evidence. The various items were enthusiastically received and altogether the Company got a hearty send-off. Mr Sam Rowley, 'the little man with the big voice,' was encored four or five times, and finished up by making a speech thanking the audience for their warm appreciation of his efforts. The different choruses were taken up and repeated by the audience and it was a late hour before the programme came to an end. The Company left to-day per s.s. *Kunming* for Singapore. *Bon voyage.*

Home for Quarantined Dogs.

The report of the proceedings of the Public Works Committee, at its meeting on 29th July last, was on the table at yesterday's special meeting of the Legislative Council. The following, with reference to the proposed Home for Quarantined Dogs appears:—The Chairman explained that this matter had previously been before the Committee, and a sum of \$1,000 had been provided in this year's Estimates to cover the cost of the building. A plan and estimate had now been prepared which showed that the cost would be \$1,600. It was unanimously agreed to recommend that a supplementary vote be taken for the sum of \$600 and that the work be proceeded with at once.

EXPERIENCE IN THE BLOOD.—'We have seen hosts of letters from people who have received great benefit from the use of Clarke's Blood Mixture. It cannot be too highly estimated, for it cleanses and clears the blood from all impurities. This is a good testimonial from the Family Doctor, which goes on further to say: 'It is the finest Blood Purifier that science and nature have brought to light, and we can with the utmost confidence recommend it to our subscribers and the public generally.' For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, it is a marvel. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Clarke's Blood Mixture is sold everywhere, at 2s. 9d. per bottle. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The Straits Governorship.

A private letter from home says:—Colonel Letchworth told me that it was quite definite that Sir Frank Swettenham is the new Governor of the Straits Settlements.

The Wily Chinaman.

Having learnt something about indemnities, the Chinese Government, through Wu-Ting-Fang, the Chinese Minister at Washington, has filed a claim for an indemnity of five hundred thousand dollars for the alleged outrageous treatment of Chinese at Butte, Montana, as far back as 1886.

The Boers and Explosive Bullets.

Captain Slocum, U.S. military attaché with the British troops in South Africa, writes in his official report:—Explosive bullets were in many cases used by the Boers. I have seen a large number in the bells of the captured and wounded. I attach one to this report, taken by me from a Boer belt at Pretoria. There were some twenty others like it in the same belt. It will be noticed that it not only has the lead core exposed, but the sides of the bullet are also split.

The Open Door in Manchuria.

A correspondent writes to the *Singapore Mercury*:—The Rev. J. D. Liddell of the London Mission and Mr May, mining engineer, have gone to the district west of Chinchow in Manchuria. To show the extent to which the 'door is open,' even on the line of railway north of Shanhai-kuan, built by British enterprise, these British subjects could not pass Shanhai-kuan without a Russian passport, and this was only granted them by special favour, and after their being able to prove satisfactorily that they had not the remotest connection with the British military authorities.

The late Dr Kerr.

The venerable Doctor Kerr, who has been illing only for a short time, died at his residence in Canton on Saturday, the 10th inst., at 10 p.m. He was buried on Sunday. A memorial service was conducted on Monday at Fong Tsien, the residence of the late doctor. The death of Dr Kerr removes one of the links with the old times in China. The doctor will long be remembered for his work at the Canton Hospital. During the many years he has been in charge of that institution, he has treated probably half a million patients. To the work of healing he added the training of students and the preparation of medical text-books. The time has scarcely come for an estimate to be made of the great services Dr Kerr has rendered to the cause of suffering humanity and science in China. He deservedly held a position second to none.

The Female Lawyer.

In the Court of Session, Edinburgh, on the 12th July, a question that has been agitating legal circles in Scotland for some months as to whether a lady could, under Scottish Statutes, practise as a solicitor, was settled. Miss Margaret Strang Hall, a young lady of eighteen years, who proposed entering as an apprentice with a Troon solicitor, was refused entrance to the Law Agents' Examination, which it is necessary she should pass, and she petitioned the Court to order the Examiners to receive her. Lords Adam, Kinneir, and Pearson stated that they were unanimous with the other Judges who had been consulted in the matter, in deciding that they had no power to admit the lady to the examination. They therefore dismissed her petition, saying there must be an alteration in the law before it was legal for a lady to be a solicitor.

Sharebrokers' Commission.

A circular issued by the newly-started Shanghai Stock Exchange to members on the 2nd inst. reads:—'Upon the requisition of ten members an extraordinary general meeting of the Association is called for 5 p.m. on Monday the 12th inst., to consider and, if approved, to pass the following Resolutions:—That on and after the 1st of September next the scale of brokerage fees be altered as follows:—Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Shares 1 per cent. from seller and 1 per cent. from buyer. All other Stocks and Debentures 1 per cent. from seller and 1 per cent. from buyer. Stocks bought from Hongkong 1 per cent. from buyer.'

From the foregoing (says the *China Gazette*) it will be seen that the Exchange admits that the present charges are far too high, but it tries to compromise the matter on the plan of taking with two hands what it formerly grasped at with only one. We think every broker's contract note should pay a stamp duty to the Municipality, if only as a check on gambling and a legitimate source of revenue.

A CURE FOR CHOLERA INFANTUM.

'LAST May,' says Mrs. Curtis Baker, of Brookwater, Co. U. S. A., 'an infant child of our neighbor's was suffering from cholera infantum. The doctor had given up all hopes of recovery. I took a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy to the house, telling them I felt sure it would do good if used according to directions. In two days the child had fully recovered, and is now (nearly a year since) a vigorous, healthy girl. I have recommended this Remedy frequently and have never known it to fail in any single instance.' For sale by A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd., General Agents.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Raub Gold.

A telegram from Raub dated 4th August, says:—July crushing; 3,500 tons stone for 1,434 oz. melted gold. Average 8 dwts. 5 grs. per ton.

Penang's Municipal Engineer.

The Penang Municipal Commissioners, at a recent meeting, proceeded to ballot for the appointment of Municipal Engineer to the Penang Municipality. Mr. S. Reid, of Singapore, was unanimously appointed on the following terms:—Six months' notice in writing upon either side to terminate the engagement, and Mr. Reid will not be permitted to take up outside work without the sanction of the Commissioners.

Increased Market Accommodation.

At the meeting of the Public Works Committee held on 29th July last, the report of the proceedings of which was laid on the table at yesterday's special meeting of the Legislative Council, it appears that the Chairman (Hon. W. Chatham) submitted plans and estimates for the erection of two temporary markets and an extension of Wanchai Market, as follows:—Temporary market opposite Sailors' Home, \$8,500.00; Temporary market adjacent to new Harbour Office site \$6,500.00; Extension of Wanchai Market, \$7,000.00—a total cost of \$22,000. He explained that a Committee had been appointed, consisting of the Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Dr. Clark, Mr. Brewin, the Hon. C. P. Chater and himself, to consider the question of providing increased market accommodation and, as the result of that Committee's recommendations, the plans and estimates submitted had been prepared. It was unanimously agreed to recommend that a Financial Minute be obtained to cover the estimated expenditure this year and that the works be put in hand at once.

The Lee-Metford Bullet.

The U. S. attaché with the British troops in South Africa writes:—In this connection, cavalry and mounted infantry, I will state my belief that our cavalry, as drilled and instructed, is the best in the world to meet successfully the new conditions of war. That dismounted fire action for cavalry is a necessary component of its success I do not think there is a doubt, and our cavalry is the only one in the world thoroughly drilled and instructed in it. From conversation with the eight other attaches representing all the large powers of the world, I was especially struck with the fact of how little serious attention has been given to this matter in the cavalry of other countries. My experience has convinced me that the day of large cavalry bodies meeting in a melee is past, and that cavalry using a long distance carbine, with bullet not under .35-caliber, and instructed as ours is quickly to dismount and use it, will defeat any opposing horseman trying to get home with sabre or lance. I would lay special stress on the larger caliber, for the .303 non-explosive will not stop a horse. I have seen horses shot right through the neck or body by the small bullet go all the afternoon with their riders and be entirely fit in three or four days. In my opinion, the bullet is too merciful which permits of a larger percentage of those wounded by it to return to the front within a few weeks, as the Mauser .27 and Lee-Metford .303 did in this war. The clip system of the Mauser rifle is, I think, an excellent one. Not only are the cartridges loaded into the magazine much more quickly than without it, but the clip holds the cartridges in the belt and prevents their being lost. The belt worn by the Boers generally had twelve pockets, with a flap coming down over it and fastened to a stud. The bottom of the pocket or pouch was perforated. The clip with five cartridges in it was put horizontally into the pouch, the ends of the cartridges protruding through the holes at the bottom, and the flap fastened down; the cartridges were then secure and could also be withdrawn quickly from the pouch. The action of the Lee-Metford is like ours in respect to the loading, each cartridge being separately inserted. The infantry carried their cartridges loose in two pouches in front on each side of the belt plate, the effect of which was bad in two ways: the man could not lie prone and was constantly losing his cartridges. Our cavalry, combining as it does the essential advantage of both mounted infantry and cavalry and rendering unnecessary the two distinct branches, but it should have a gun firing a larger bullet.

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